

Vocabulary:

Affidavit—A written statement made by a witness that is sworn to be true

Class C misdemeanor—A crime punishable by fine

Contempt of court—Willful disregard for orders made by the judge

Defendant—The person being charged with a crime in court

Expunction: The process by which the record of a criminal conviction is destroyed or sealed.

Juvenile: Although there is no legal definition of juvenile, the Family Code defines a child as a person who is at least 10 years of age and under the age of 17. Courts usually use this definition to mean a juvenile.

Minor: In the Transportation Code, a minor is a person who is younger than 17 years of age; in the Alcoholic Beverage Code, a minor is a person who is under 21 years of age.

Municipal courts—Courts created by the Texas Legislature in each incorporated city of the State that hear violations of city ordinances and Class C misdemeanors that occur within the city limits

Plea: The defendant's answer to the accusation, complaint, or petition brought against him or her by the State in a municipal court. In criminal cases in municipal courts, there are four possible pleas: guilty, not guilty, *nolo contendere* (no contest), or the special plea of double jeopardy. In a truancy case, the pleas are true or not true..

Summons: A writ of the court directing that a person appear at a stated time and place. In municipal court, the judge can issue a summons for a defendant or for the parents of a juvenile. Pre-Trial Conference: A meeting held with the prosecutor to outline the issues of the case before trial.